

CLAIMS

1. A method of monitoring usage of a monitored device, comprising:
 - receiving an electronic mail message transmitted using an Internet protocol, the electronic mail message comprising information related to usage of the monitored device;
 - automatically extracting identifying information of the monitored device from the electronic mail message;
 - automatically extracting page count information of the monitored device from the electronic mail message; and
 - automatically storing the page count information in association with the identifying information in a database.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - generating the electronic mail message by the monitored device; and
 - transmitting the electronic mail message over the Internet using the Internet protocol.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the monitored device is one of a copier and a printer.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of automatically extracting identifying information comprises:
 - extracting a device identifier of the monitored device;
 - extracting model information of the monitored device; and
 - extracting device type information of the monitored device.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the storing step comprises:
 - storing at least one of a total number of pages printed and a total number of pages printed since a last report.
6. A system, comprising:
 - a computer comprising a processor configured (1) to receive an electronic mail message transmitted using an Internet protocol, the electronic mail message

comprising information related to usage of a monitored device, (2) to extract, automatically, identifying information of the monitored device from the electronic mail message, (3) to extract, automatically, page count information of the monitored device from the electronic mail message, and (4) to store, automatically, the page count information in association with the identifying information in a database associated with the computer.

7. The system of claim 6, further comprising:

the monitored device configured to generate the electronic mail message and to transmit the electronic mail message comprising information related to the usage of the monitored device over the Internet to the computer using the Internet protocol.

8. The system of claim 6, wherein the monitored device is one of a copier and a printer.

9. The system of claim 6, wherein the computer is configured to extract a device identifier of the monitored device, to extract model information of the monitored device, and to extract device type information of the monitored device.

10. The system of claim 6, wherein the computer is configured to store at least one of a total number of pages printed and a total number of pages printed since a last report in the memory.

11. A computer program product including a computer readable medium for monitoring usage of a monitored device, comprising:

instructions for receiving an electronic mail message transmitted using an Internet protocol, the electronic mail message comprising information related to usage of the monitored device;

instructions for automatically extracting identifying information of the monitored device from the electronic mail message;

instructions for automatically extracting page count information of the monitored device from the electronic mail message; and

instructions for automatically storing the page count information in association with the identifying information in a database.

12. The computer program product of claim 11, further comprising:
instructions for generating the electronic mail message by the monitored device; and
instructions for transmitting the electronic mail message over the Internet using the Internet protocol.

13. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the monitored device is one of a copier and a printer.

14. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the instructions for automatically extracting identifying information comprise:
instructions for extracting a device identifier of the monitored device;
instructions for extracting model information of the monitored device; and
instructions for extracting device type information of the monitored device.

15. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the instructions for storing comprise:
instructions for storing at least one of a total number of pages printed and a total number of pages printed since a last report.